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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!
What good's a Soapbox if it isn't used to tell you things you didn't know? I'll bet few of you were aware that mighty Marvel's sensational sister company across the sea, Marvel Comics U.K. (U.K. standing for United Kingdom, of course) has taken the once-staid British populace by storm with the creation of a pulse-pounding plethora of startling new super heroes, featured in England's own cosmic collection of costumed crusaders — the now-legendary best-seller — OVERKILL!
But, since few True Believers are able to fly to England each fortnight to pick up the latest editions, your big-hearted Bullpen has solved the problem for you. We've arranged to ship most of Marvel U.K.'s titanic new titles to your favorite comicbook stores in America! No longer shall we underprivileged colonials be deprived of the mother country's harvest

of heroes! And what a caravansary of cataclysmic characters they are! Just the briefest listing of their titles should give you an inkling of the wonderment in store...
Zooming to the U.S. at the end of '92 you'll meet DEATH'S HEAD II, MOTOR-MOUTH & KILLPOWER, THE KNIGHTS OF PENDRAGON, DIGITEK, BATTLE-TIDE (the senses-staggering battle between Death's Head II and Killpower), WARHEADS, DARK ANGEL, TEAM HELIX, and NIGHTRAVEN!
But that's only the beginning of Britain's super hero invasion! Early in '93 don't miss the way-out wonderment of MYSTEC WARS, DEATH RATTLE, SHADOW RIDERS, BLOOD SEED, GENE MACHINE, WILD THING, BLACK-AXE, SUPER SOLDIERS, GUN RUNNER, DEATH METAL, and the mind-blasting mystery of — PLASMER!
Perhaps the most spectacular surprise of all is the fact that the entire kaboodle of British heroes meet, greet,

and interact with your own favorites from Marvel U.S.A.! So don't be surprised to see Wolverine and Sabretooth pop up in BattleTide's limited-series, or to find War-heads, Mephisto and the Silver Surfer sharing the same adventures! As always, the Marvel Universe is one and inseparable, so anything happening anywhere affects all else in our ever-constant, ever-changing cosmos!
Tis with happy heart and cheerful mien that I bid thee adieu, buoyed by the knowledge that the incalculable power of this month's Soapbox has insured that thou shalt not miss the triumphant entry of Marvel U.K.'s horde of heroes to our grand and grateful shores!

Excelsior!
Stan
Stan Lee

Everybody's doin' it! No, we're not talking about hologram covers — we're talking about gettin' hitched. Takin' the plunge. Checkin' into the matrimonial institution. Doin' the marriage thing.

Lately there have been a rash of weddings among the editorial staff of Mighty Marvel, and they've been popping up like lizts on a New Warrior. Following in the footsteps of Reed and Sue... Peter and Mary Jane... Dr. Octopus and Aunt May... many of our mighty Marveloids have decided to pursue lives of wedded bliss. Tying the knot is a big commitment — it's like when Hercules quits his job as a solo hero and becomes an Avenger.

One editor who is solo no longer is Associate Editor Evan Skolnick, who this past July said "I do" to his own British import, Lynn White, after a whirlwind three month courtship. In addition to his recent nuptials, Evan was recently promoted to Associate Editor of such titles of ORIGINAL GHOST RIDER and MARVEL YEAR IN REVIEW. Sounds like he'll have quite a year of his own to review.

Evan's former boss, Fabian Nicieza, writer of NOMAD, last month gave up his life of wandering as he settled down and married his longtime sweetheart, Tracey Lee. It only took a few months for Fab to make that decision — that's one heck of a deadline! Fab's brother, Mariano, of the Promotions Department, threw a blowout bachelor party for fabulous Fab, which featured a special mega-entertaining slideshow of "The Lives and Time of Fabian." It was attended by many of the brightest and best guys (no girls allowed, natch) in the business. Fabian's NOMAD editor Glenn "Helium" Herdling seems to have found religion. Not only is he writing PARAGON for our new religious comics line, but he also was made an honest man last month by his new bride, Laura Eoldhardt. Glenn took his lady love up in a balloon, and popped the question — but not the balloon, fortunately. Glenn's proposal first appeared in comic book form in WHAT IF #31. Glenn presented Laura with a copy of the comic while up in the balloon, and she answered in the affirmative quicker than Tom DeFalco approving a new Thor series.

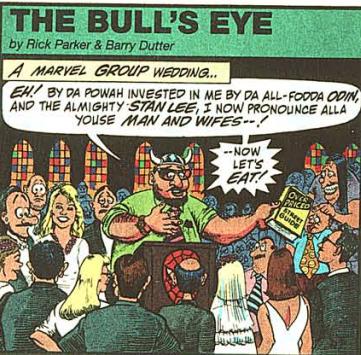
Still waiting for approval for that Quasar/Ren & Stimpy team-up is Mark Gruenwald, who also slipped the quantum band around the finger of his new bride, Catherine Schuller, last month. Performing at Mark's wedding was WOLVERINE writer Larry Hama's band, the K-Otics! Mark and Catherine's wedding song was "One More Kiss," from the movie *Bladerunner*. (Now if only we could make a replicant of Mark, we could get twice as much work out of him!)

Bullpen cartoonist Rick Parker, still basking in the success of his best-selling book with Barry Dutter, Everything I Really Need to Know I learned From Television, also walked down the aisle last month with BARBIE writer Lisa Trusiani at a ceremony in Falmouth, Maine. The reception included a good old New England style clam bake, and all the guests were treated to a cruise on lovely Casco Bay. Unfortunately, the Love Boat's Captain Stubing was unavailable to perform the wedding ceremony.

Sadly, Pin-Head of the Cenobites, doesn't do weddings, either. Pin-Head's boss, HELLRAISER editor Marcus McLaurin, is used to seeing souls torn apart over in the pages of that mag. But MM will take part in the joining of two souls when he exchanges vows with his intended, Janet Paes, next May. Marcus proposed to Janet on the Sky Ride at Disneyworld last January. Surely this wedding will be an Epic event, though hopefully not a harrowing one. (Or are we Barkering up the wrong tree?)

Finally, we come to HULK editor Bobbie Chase, whose gamma-irradiated nuptials will be taking place next June. Craig Kunasch, of the Direct Sales Department, proposed to Bobbie at the top of a mountain in St. Maartin while the two were on vacation. It is hoped that their union will bring Marvel's editorial and sales departments closer together, and bring even greater unity to the Marvel family. Surely it won't be long before Bobbie and Craig will have little Midnight Sons and Daughters of their own running around all over the place.

Warmest wedding wishes to all our newlyweds! And remember the lesson learned by Spider-Man not so long ago: With great weddings come great catering bills!



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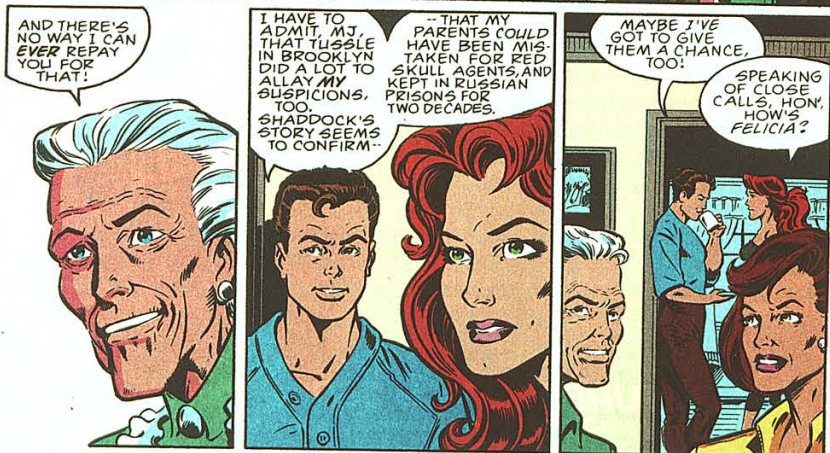
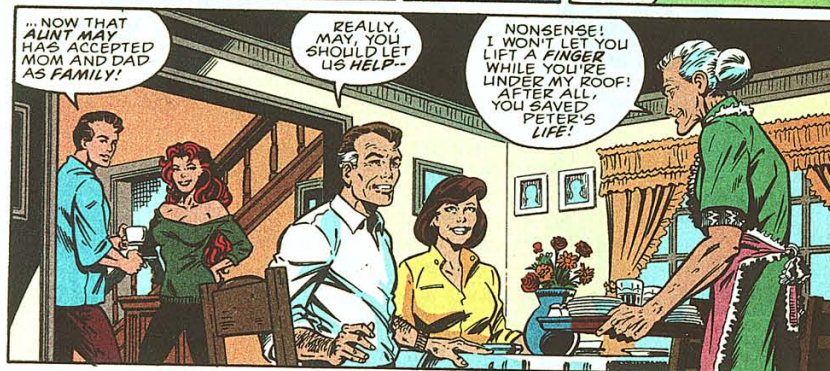
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TWO HOURS LATER, AT AN ISOLATED RURAL ESTATE...

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AND NOW IT'S LED ME HERE!

* IN AMAZING #340-343, DANNY

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DON'T KNOW IF SMYTHE'S ACTUALLY HERE, BUT I DO KNOW THIS IS WHERE HE CONTROLS THE ROBOTS HE'S BEEN SENDING AFTER ME!

ODD... I HAVEN'T RUN INTO ANY TRAPS OR GUARDS! NOT EVEN SECURITY CAMERAS... MY SPIDER-SENSE WOULD WARN ME IF I WAS BEING WATCHED!

IT'S ALMOST AS IF SMYTHE WANTS ME HERE!



CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING I'M STEPPING INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S WEB!

BUT I GUESS THERE'S NO QUICKER WAY TO SEE IF I'M...



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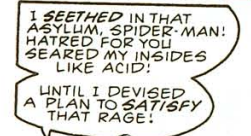


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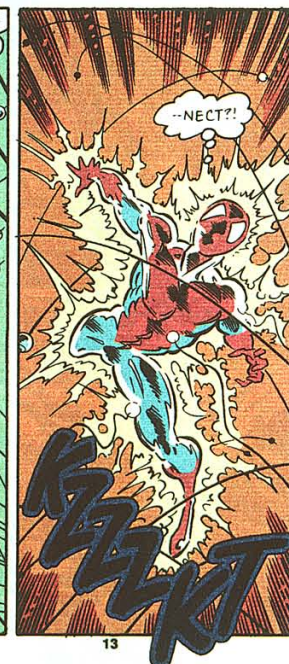
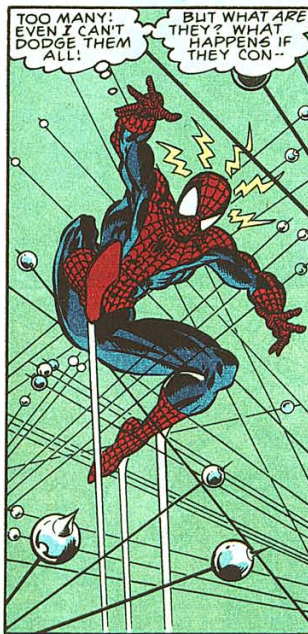
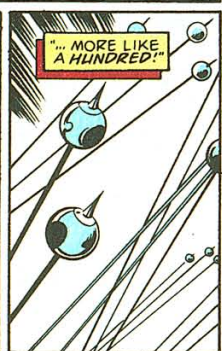
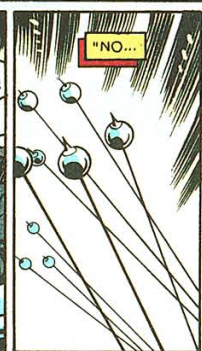
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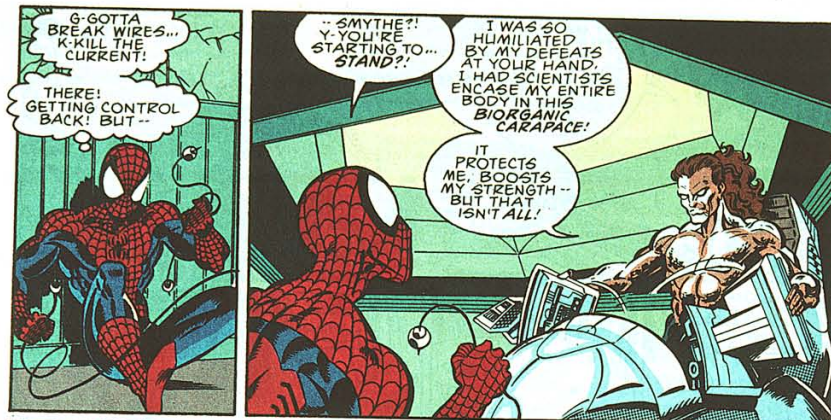




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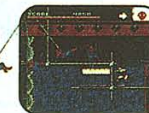
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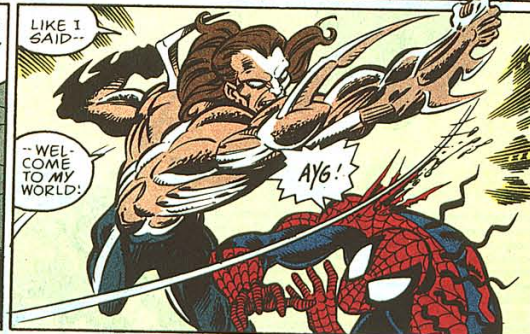
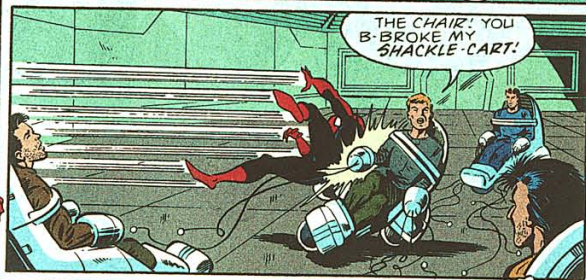
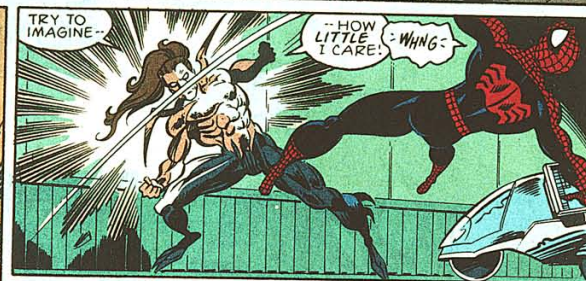
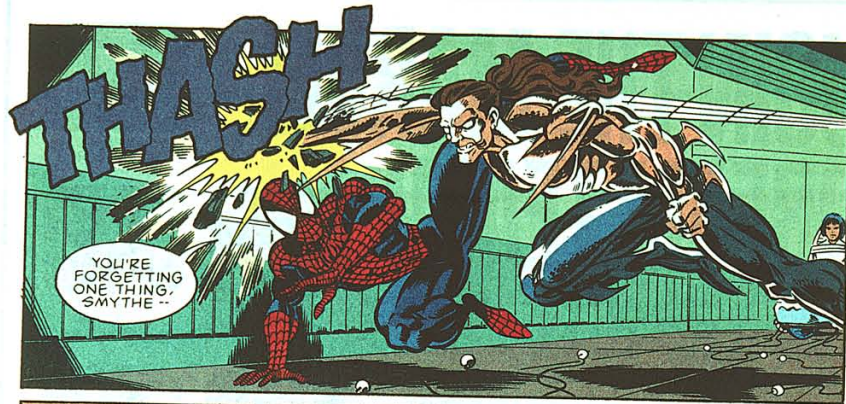
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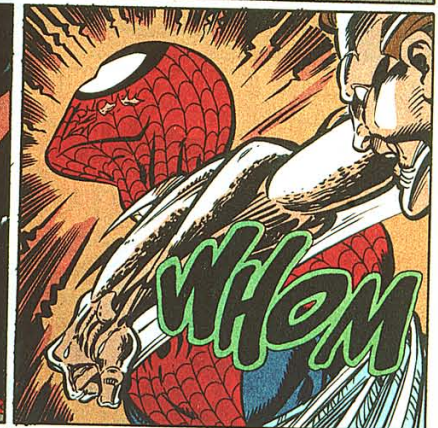
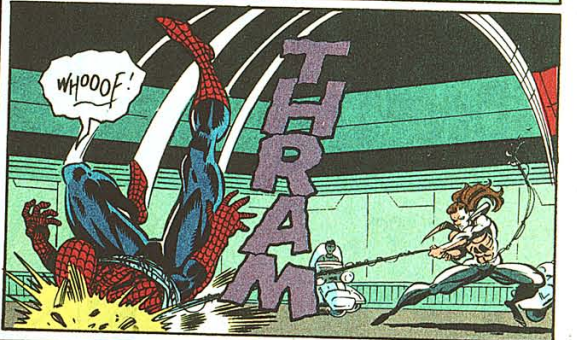
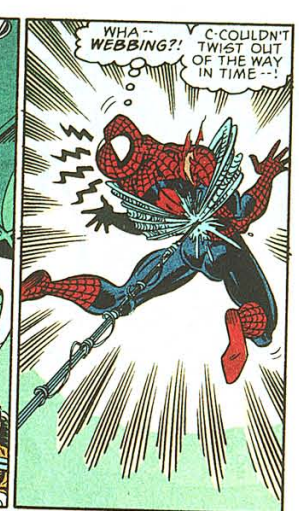
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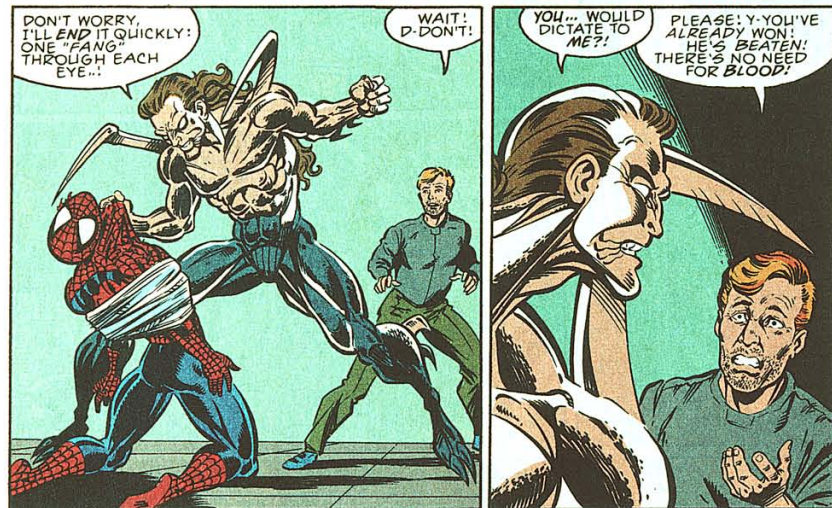
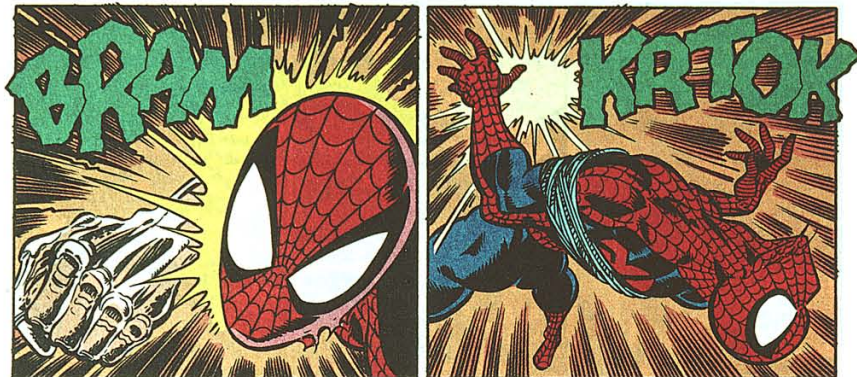
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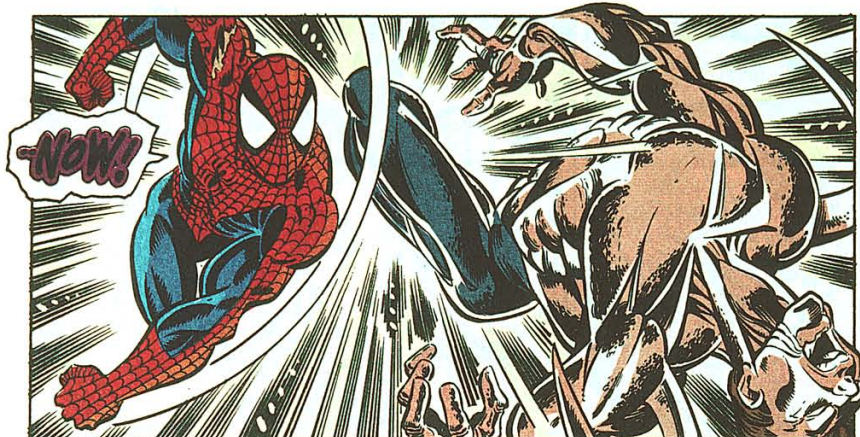
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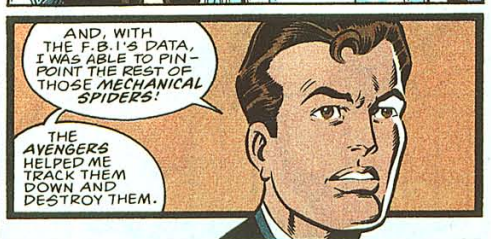
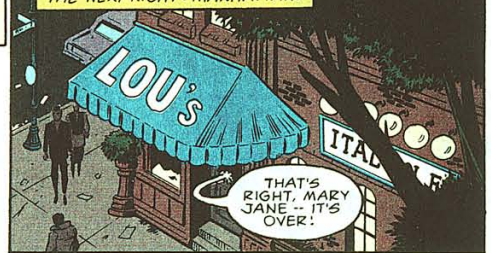


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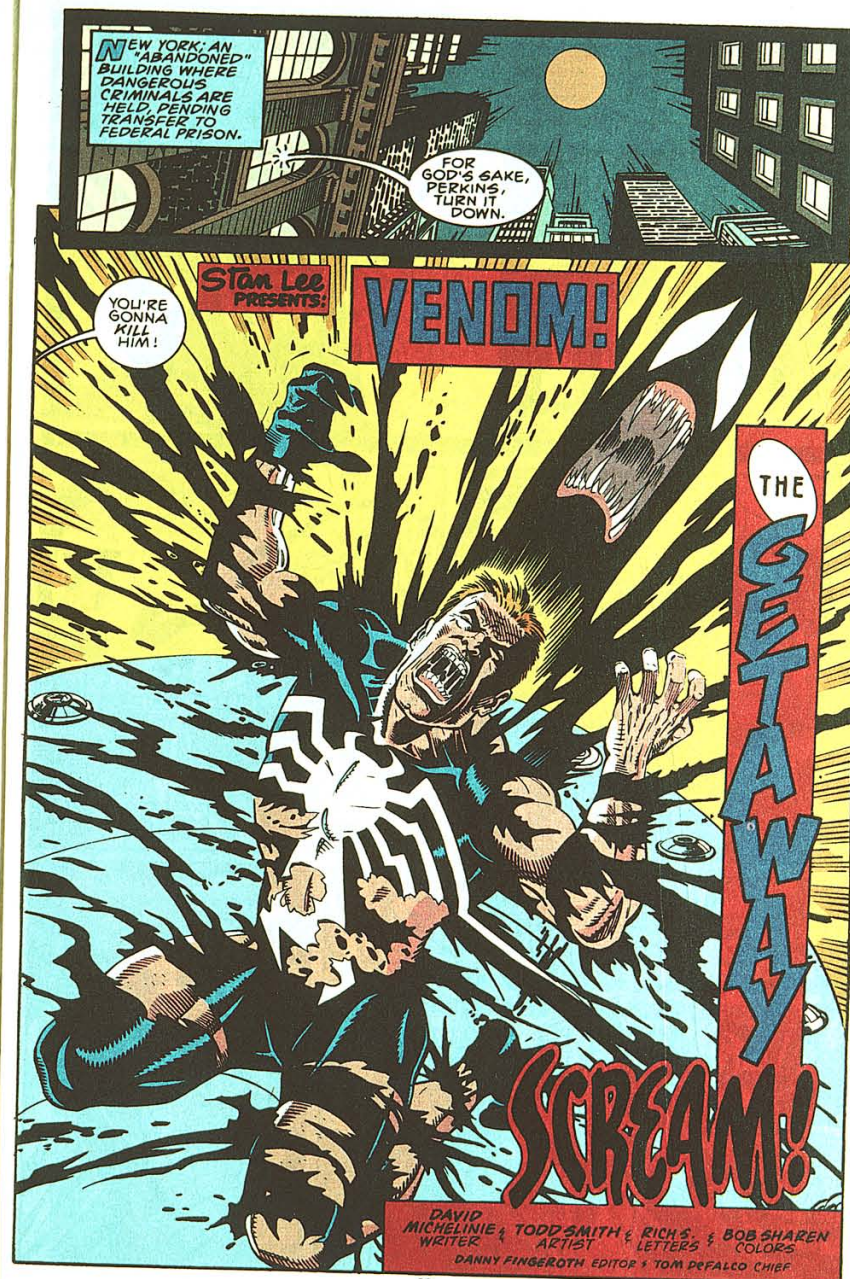
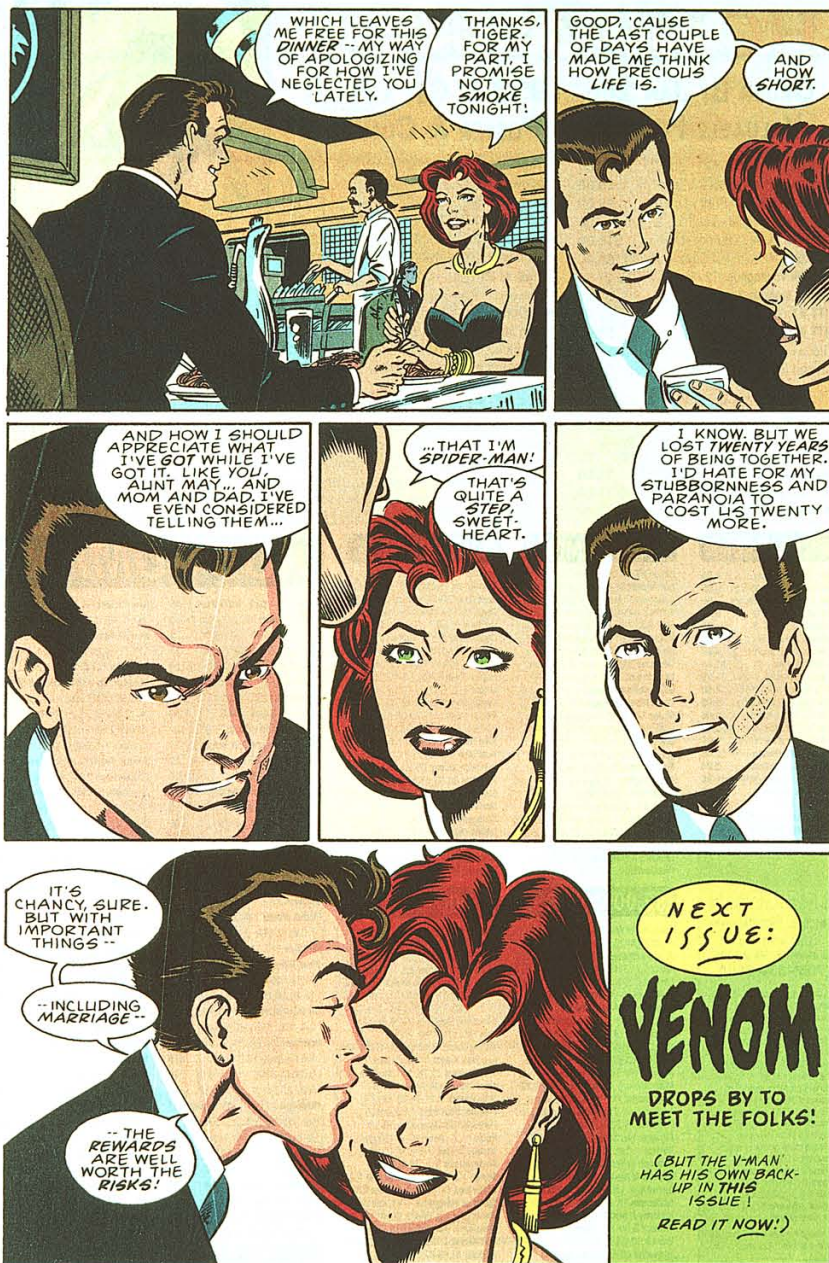
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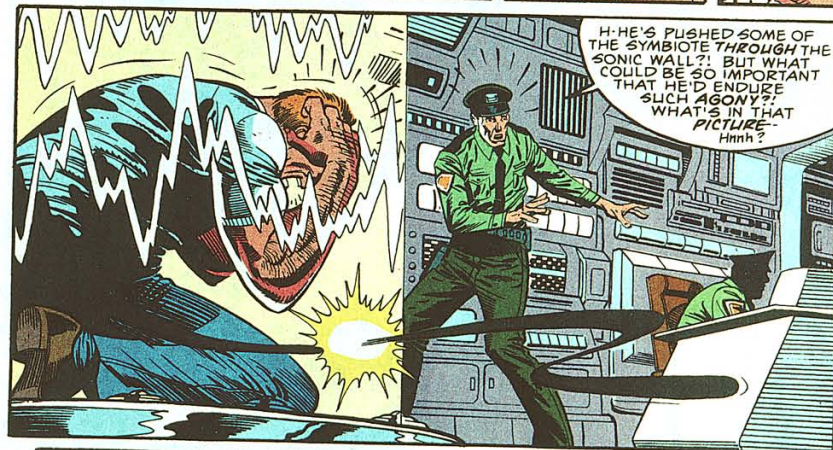
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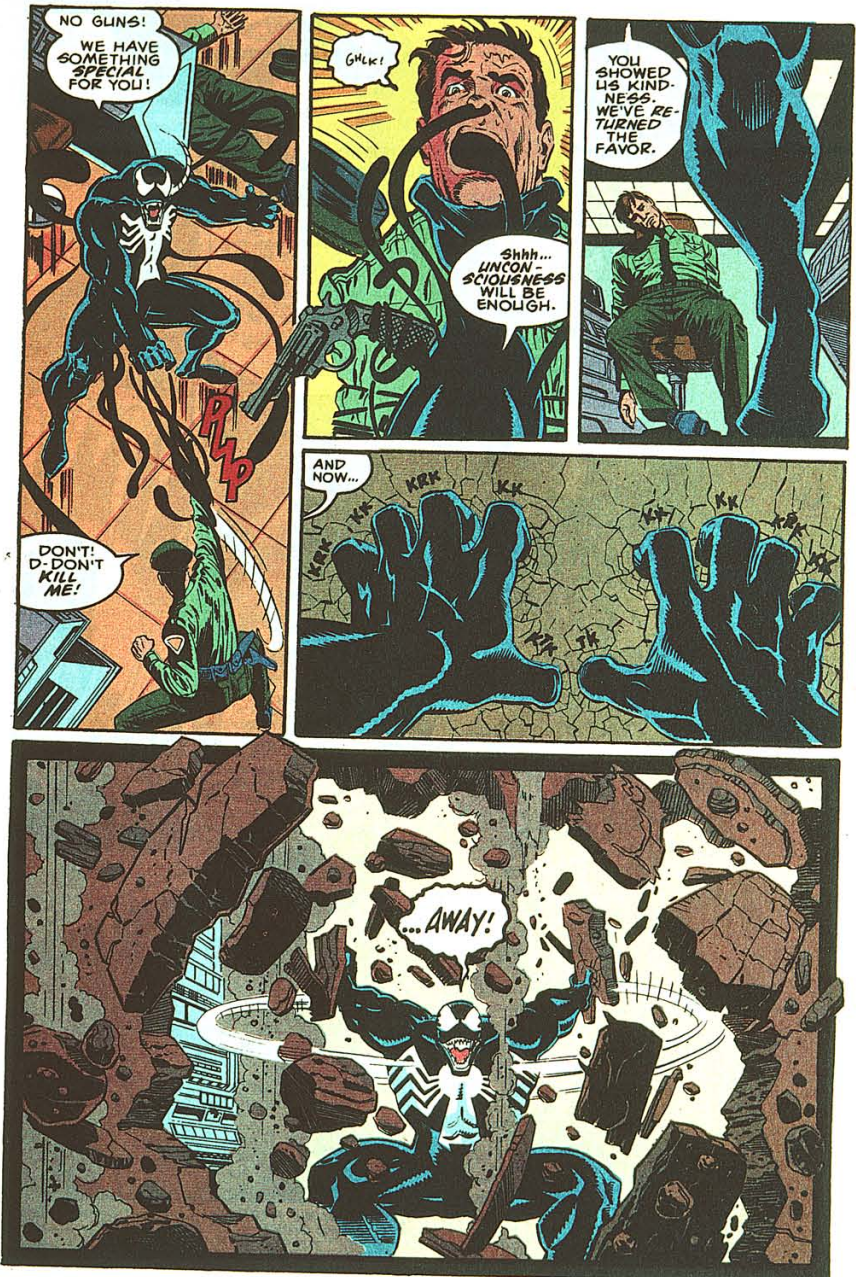
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THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
MIKE LACKEY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Whoa! Talk about an avalanche of mail! That's exactly what we got on issue #365, our big hologram cover anniversary celebration! Let's get into just the tip of the iceberg...

Dear Danny,
The 30th Anniversary celebration in ASM was outstanding! The indirect continuation of "Torment" was a nice answer to the question of the Lizard's whereabouts. Bagley's poster of Spidey, Venom and Carnage was beautiful. And the Prowler back-up story was nicely done, with a powerful message to boot.

But the part I liked the most about this issue was the "I Remember Gwen" sequence by Stan Lee and John Romita! This short story stole the show! Having joined Spider-Man after he was married to Mary Jane, it was fascinating to look back and see a brief rendition of life before Gwen's death. And the fact that the work was done by the people who made Spider-Man famous, the flashback was all the more enjoyable. Perhaps in the near future, we could see an entire issue scripted by Stan and drawn by Romita Sr. Think about it! What more could die-hard Spider-Man fans want?

I know you're probably shocked that I didn't spend my entire letter talking about Peter's "parents." For some reason, I have a hard time believing that they are who they claim to be. I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

James Evans
6621 Sutton Road
Madison, WI 53711

If you liked Stan's brief story in this issue, James, we hope you're picking up RAVAGE 2099 which features the Smiling One's first venture into a regular comic mag writing assignment in quite some time! As for Jazzy John Romita, well, he works on almost every Marvel comic published. He's our resident art director, who makes sure that every thrilling page meets his high standards, especially the covers!

Dear Marvel,
The 30th Anniversary issue of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has it all. Marvelous hologram cover, great action, touching tribute to Gwen Stacy, humorously pompous J.J.J., scary gatefold poster of Spidey, Venom and Carnage, inspiring but serious Prowler story, and the debut of SPIDER-MAN 2099!

Kevin Fork
6606 Fork Road
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Amazing Team,
First off, I'd like to mention that I've been collecting for about four years. I've always wanted to write but never felt compelled to until now. Here are some of my thoughts on Marvel's finest:

1) AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #365 was excellent. I loved the new angle on the Lizard. Thank you for giving his son an active role. Also, I especially enjoyed Mary Jane's story. Please show more of her personal moments.
2) More, more, more, and yes—more Black Cat and Flash Thompson. During the "Power-

less" story, the Black Cat and Flash really made the story for me. I would like to see more of them in the book.

3) More Peter and Mary Jane please! More of their social life. Peter and MJ are part of what really adds to this magazine. They suffer everyday marital problems, but always seem to pull back together. That's special. They always cope because they have each other. Don't ever split them up.

4) Thanks for four years of fun and adventure. You offer an enjoyable escape and characters we can all identify with. I hope to be around for another thirty!

Nutboy
132 Pine Street
Plattsburg, NY 12901

Welcome to your first letters page, Nutboy! We're glad it was here in the Spider's Web! In the future, though, keep in mind that we frown on printing letters signed with just a pseudonym. At Marvel, we like only our heroes to possess secret identities!

Dear Spider's Web,

I've just finished reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #365 and I was amazed. As always, the art was awesome, but the story was amazing! It's even better than SPIDER-MAN #51! We should see a lot more of Spidey's parents. Besides the dynamic hologram cover and the killer pullout poster, this is well worth the cover price.

Well, I can't wait until September for more of SPIDER-MAN 2099, and I hope to see a lot more of the Prowler, so keep up that boffo work and party on!

Chuck Hale
4207 Lee Center Road
Taberg, NY 13471

Let us know how much you're enjoying SPIDER-MAN 2099, Chuck, and keep an eye out for the PROWLER Limited Series next summer!

Dear Spider's Web,

I just finished reading the 30th Anniversary issue and all I have to say is "incredible!" At first I thought the cover price was a little too high, but after reading the lead story and the other features, it was well worth it. As usual, David Michelinie has written another great story featuring one of Spidey's classic villains, the Lizard.

The artwork on this story was awesome as Bagley brought the Lizard to life and showed us how terrifying the Lizard can be. The ending was shocking as we saw what could be Peter Parker's parents return after so many years of believing that they died in a plane crash. This was a great issue with a great story and many good features. The coming months should be very interesting with more about Spidey's parents being revealed.

Tom Meier
21 Ross Avenue
Demarest, NJ 07627

We've got more surprises planned for the coming months than you can spin a web at, Tom. In all the Spider-titles—as well as the upcoming VENOM limited series.

Dear Spider's Web,

Here's a few questions and comments about AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #365 and other items relating to Spidey:

1) I liked the battle with the Lizard, but the end was a bit melodramatic. Most alert readers should have seen it coming for two issues.
2) As for tightened continuity within AMAZING WEB and SPECTACULAR, I'm all for it. But keep SPIDER-MAN out of continuity, using different creative teams for each story arc. If it's good enough for the Punisher, it's definitely good enough for Spidey.
3) Is Sandman going to become a hero? Recent issues of SPIDER-MAN would point toward that. If so, will he be featured in any of Spidey's books?

4) It may be the latest bad, but I don't like the "series within a series." Keep the readers on their toes.

Well, good luck on keeping Spider-Man the number one character for thirty more years.

Shane Dirks
5940 Elkcrest Drive
Lincoln, NE 68516

Thanks for your comments, Shane. As for the Sandman becoming a hero, you're on the right track. Right now he's one of Silver Sable's top operatives. Check out copies of her own comic to find out the scoop.

NEXT: Venom's back. His targets: Richard and Mary Parker. Be here in two weeks for the prelude to both our gala giant-size 375th issue (the 30th anniversary of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1—as opposed to AMAZING FANTASY #15—as well) and VENOM #1!





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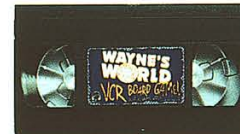
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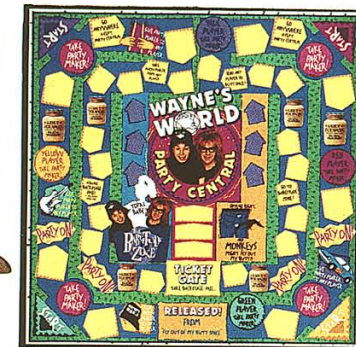
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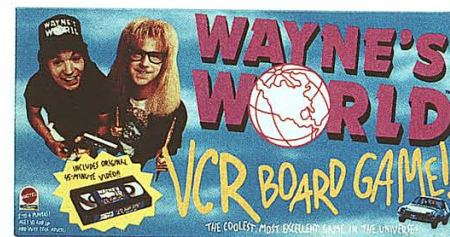
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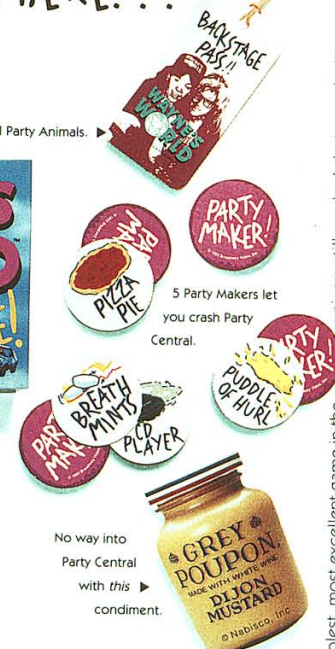
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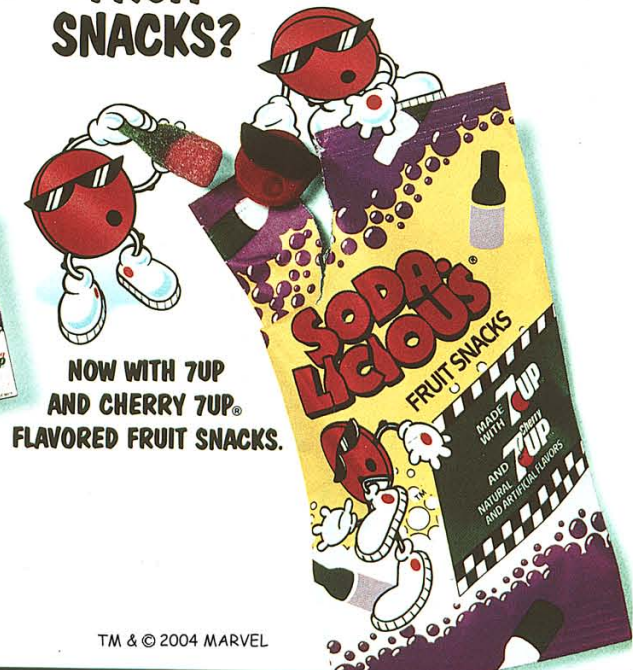


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